FLEXIBLE BIO-PROBE ASSEMBLY

STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

This invention was made with government support under 2R44NS33427 awarded by the SBIR. The government has certain rights in the invention.

RELATED PATENT APPLICATIONS

The present application is a continuation of application 10/320,072, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,719,582, which is a continuation in part of application 09/653,489, filed August 31, 2000, now U. S. Patent 6,495,020, which is, in turn, a divisional of application 09/518,006, filed March 2, 2000, now U.S. Patent 6,368,147 issued June 25, 2002.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is a method of making a flexible brain probe assembly.

Creating a probe that contacts the brain tissue represents a challenge to researchers. Researchers typically wish to measure electrical activity at specific sites within the brain that share a well-defined physical relationship to one another. Probes produced by photolithographic techniques, such as the probe designed by personnel at the University of Michigan that is known in the industry and research community as the "University of Michigan Probe," permit the accurate placement of electrode sites that are sufficiently small to permit the measurement of electrical activity at a specific set of predefined sites within the brain. Unfortunately, the desire to use photolithography has prompted the use of silicon as a substrate. Because this material is quite brittle, the use of it creates a risk of breakage inside the brain, endangering the subject or patient and